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### Holodomor

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# Holodomor

Taylor Diken

Gaylord boxes hold acid-free folders hold dried wood pulp  
and ink the storyteller  
except when it's not  
except when it burns

Gaylord boxes stacked on dusty shelves stacked  
on concrete floors stacked  
on burial grounds, the old myth come to  
life in the files, the obsolescence of discs,  
the stories that haunt

This is a new nation for us,  
us pinkos, us Rusnaks  
gathered at St. Elias speaking our own po-našemu  
no organ for the choir  
heritage inherited without fear of reprisal

They can't take our memories if we hold them in our tongues  
(and we never could afford ink,  
anyway) but tongues are desperate for some taste  
other than ash and the kontakion

And burial grounds hold archives hold history  
just not ours.

Taylor Diken is a graduate student in Library and Information Science at the Catholic University of America. She received her Bachelor's degree from the University of Pittsburgh in 2016. You can find her on [ORCID](#) to follow her work. Contact: [taylordiken@gmail.com](mailto:taylordiken@gmail.com).